

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF BUPRESTIS

(Coleoptera, Buprestidae)

BY J. R. HELFER

*Mendocino, California**Buprestis salisburyensis cazieri* Helfer, new subspecies

Holotype, adult female. Medium sized, length 14 mm., width 5.5 mm., elongate oval, widest at anterior fourth and posterior third of elytra and equally wide at these two points; head, thorax and elytra dark greenish, head and thorax pronouncedly suffused with purplish, elytra with central portions dark purple becoming dark green at suture and side margins to apices; body beneath dark greenish with some purplish at sides of prosternum. *Head* marked by a slight frontal longitudinal ridge reaching from vertex to middle of front, closely coarsely punctate, punctures separated by about one-third of their widths, mandibles similarly punctate; labrum partly brownish becoming metallic greenish centrally; first segment of antennae brownish proximally and metallic greenish distally, other segments dark, metallic; eyes elongate oval, blackish flecked with gold; palpi brownish; all parts except eyes rather sparsely evenly clothed with white hairs. *Prothorax* length 2.5 mm., width 4.75 mm., widest at base, slightly arcuately, evenly narrowed from base to apex, closely coarsely punctate, less closely punctate toward center but with no smooth center line or impression except for a small ante-scutellar pit; a slight depression at each side near base; anterior margin mostly smooth, slightly raised, posterior margin smooth; scutellum distinct, concave, rounded anteriorly, angulated posteriorly, hairless, dark green. *Elytra* distinctly wider than prothorax; humeral umbones distinct, apices entire with slight sutural tooth; vestigial costae evident basally and a distinct sublateral costa strongest from anterior third to posterior third; vestigial costae otherwise all but obliterated by coarse punctures in rows; intervals densely coarsely punctate. *Ventral surface*: prosternum coarsely punctate, sparsely evenly clothed with white hairs; prosternal spine concave, smooth at sides, more hairy at apex; abdomen rather finely punctate, uniformly clothed with white hairs, last segment broadly rounded at apex; legs metallic dark green with white hairs.

Allotype, adult male. Similar to female but smaller, length 11.5 mm., width 4.25 mm., and with purple color more vivid; fore tibiae simple, entire.

Habitat. Greenwood Lake, New Jersey, to Bear Mountain, New York.

Described from 1 female holotype collected at BEAR MT., N.Y., May 29, 1927, by F. M. Schott, 1 male allotype collected at the same locality June 13, 1925, also by F. M. Schott, and 31 paratypes collected at GREENWOOD LAKE, NEW JERSEY, FORT MONTGOMERY, N. Y., and BEAR MOUNTAIN, N. Y., in the months of May and June in the years 1924 to 1931 inclusive, by A. Nicolay and F. M. Schott.

The paratypes vary considerably in color, several being more greenish than the holotype and allotype but all are characteristically dark and more or less purplish in color, this being the only character distinguishing *cazieri* from typical *salisburyensis*.

In addition to the specimens mentioned above, specimens of subspecies *cazieri* have been studied in the following collections: American Museum, 3 ex. Greenwood Lake, New Jersey; U. S. National Museum, 8 ex. Greenwood Lake, New Jersey and Fort Montgomery, New York; Fall collection, 1 ex. Greenwood Lake, New Jersey; Cazier collection, 1 ex. Greenwood Lake, New Jersey; California Academy of Sciences, 1 ex. Greenwood Lake, New Jersey.

Typical green *salisburyensis* Herbst with coppery suture and side margins have been noted from Westville, Seal City, Iona, Menatico, High Point, Manchester, and Greenwood Lake, New Jersey; Bear Mountain, New York; Deer Lodge, Tennessee; Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Nicolay and Weiss also record the species, presumably the green form, from Georgia, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

There are blue specimens having coppery suture and side margins which are possibly recurrent variants throughout the range of the species. Examples of this color variant have been noted only from Lakehurst, Greenwood Lake, and Malaga, New Jersey.

Casey and LeConte both used the name *ultramarina* for the green form. In the LeConte collection one specimen labeled only "N. J." is purplish deep blue in color but is not as dark as typical specimens of subspecies *cazieri*. This is the closest thing to an intergradational form that has come to light thus far.

The dark form is apparently restricted as shown to the region between and around Greenwood Lake, New Jersey, and Bear

Mountain, New York, with typical green *salisburyensis* occurring in this same region but also having a far wider range extending to our Southern States.

I take pleasure in dedicating this interesting subspecies to Mr. Mont A. Cazier.

Holotype will be deposited in the California Academy of Sciences collection, paratypes in collections of American Museum and U. S. National Museum, allotype and remaining paratypes in collection of writer.

SOME FOOD HABITS OF FERONIA ATER DEJEAN

(Coleoptera, Carabidae)

Feronia ater Dejean 1831 (*Pterostichus*, *Holciophorus*). Washoe County (*Truckee Meadows*, XII/39, 1/40, el. 4,500 ft.—LaR). This large and active dendrophilous species is very common in the Jeffrey pine forest (*Pinus ponderosa jeffreyi* Vasey) in the vicinity of Reno, Nevada (*Truckee Meadows*). Perhaps the most massive and well-mandibled of Nevada carabids, it is an avid predator in decaying stumps, logs and standing trees, and is not found, except accidentally, beyond the limit of timber. I have found adults feeding on the larvae of *Alaus melanops* LeConte (Elateridae), *Iphthimus serratus sublaevis* Bland, *Coelocnemis dilaticollis californicus* Mannerheim (Tenebrionidae), and small *Ergates spiculatus* LeConte (Cerambycidae). Imagine victims included *Brochymena hoppingi* (Pentatomidae), *Sandalus scabricollis* Haldeman (Sandalidae), *Platycerus depressus marginalis* Casey (Lucanidae), and various species of termites. Its specific destruction of *Zootermopsis nevadensis* (Hagen) in the Mt. Lassen area of northern California has been previously recorded by E. G. Linsley and C. D. Michener (*Pan-Pac. Ent.*, 19(2):75, 1943). The strong odor *ater* emits when disturbed is more potent than that of the large associated tenebrionids (*Coelocnemis* and *Eleodes*), and seems to render it relatively immune from most insectivorous animals, although I once took fragments of an *ater* from the stomach of a skunk, *Mephitis mephitis major*.—IRA LA RIVERS.